1. (Twice Amended) A reinforcement for cementitious boards comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands covered by an alkali-resistant thermoplastic material, wherein said alkali-resistant thermoplastic material is co-extruded with said strands to provide a substantially continuous coating of said alkali-resistant thermoplastic material about said strands, and wherein said alkali-resistant thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyolefins and olefin copolymers.

2. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to fuse said thermoplastic material to allow bonding at areas where said strands intersect.

3. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to fuse or sinter said portion of the fibrous thermoplastic material to form said substantially continuous mass.

4. Please cancel claim 4.

5. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh has a strand count of about 2 to about 18 strands per inch in each direction.

6. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said strands comprise bundled glass fibers having a linear density of about 33 to about 300 tex.

7. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is no greater than about 0.020 inch in thickness.

8. (Unchanged) A reinforcement for cementitious boards comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands covered by alkali-resistant thermoplastic material,

wherein said thermoplastic material initially is fibrous, and wherein at least a portion of the fibrous thermoplastic material is fused or sintered such that the portion of the fibrous thermoplastic material is merged into a substantially continuous mass which substantially encapsulates a respective high modulus of elasticity fiber strand.

9. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8 wherein said fibrous thermoplastic material is friction spun as a fibrous sheath on a core comprised of said high modulus of elasticity strand.

36. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8, wherein the high modulus of elasticity fiber strands comprised E-glass, and wherein the fibrous thermoplastic material comprises a core sliver of thermoplastic fibers commingled with the high modulus of elasticity fiber strands, and a plurality of sheath thermoplastic fibers which cover the core sliver thermoplastic fibers and high modulus of elasticity fiber strands.

37. (Twice Amended) The reinforcement of claim 36, wherein the core sliver of thermoplastic fibers comprise one or more of isotactic or syndiotactic polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers or other olefinic fibers, nylon, polyvinyl chloride, or polyester, and wherein the sheath fibers comprise one or more of polypropylene, polyethylene, copolymers of polybutylene and propylene, ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber, and ethylene-propylene diene monomer.

38. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1, wherein said alkali-resistant thermoplastic material is applied via cross head extrusion to said strands.

39. (Twice Amended) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said olefin copolymers include ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber, ethylene-propylene diene monomer or copolymers of polybutylene and propylene.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (New) A method of making a reinforcement for cementitious boards comprising:

(a) co-extruding high modulus of elasticity fiber strands with an alkali-resistant thermoplastic material to provide a substantially continuous coating of said alkali-resistant thermoplastic material about said strands, wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyolefins and olefin copolymers; and

(b) forming an open mesh of said coated high modulus of elasticity fiber strands.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, further including heating said mesh after formation thereof to fuse said thermoplastic material at areas where said strands intersect.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, further including embedding said open mesh in a cementitious matrix to form a reinforced cementitious board.

43. (New) A method of making a reinforcement for cementitious boards comprising:

(a) providing strands of alkali-resistant thermoplastic material about high modulus of elasticity fiber strands;

(b) forming a mesh from said strands of thermoplastic material and high modulus of elasticity fiber strands; and

(c) fusing or sintering said stands of alkali-resistant thermoplastic material to merge said thermoplastic material strands into a substantially continuous mass which substantially encapsulates said high modulus of elasticity fiber strands.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said strands of thermoplastic material are friction spun as a fibrous sheath on a core comprised of said high modulus of elasticity strands.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said strands of thermoplastic material comprise a core sliver of thermoplastic fibers commingled with said high modulus of

elasticity fiber strands, and a plurality of sheath thermoplastic fibers which cover the core sliver of thermoplastic fibers and high modulus of elasticity strands.

46. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said core sliver of thermoplastic fibers comprise one or more of isotactic or syndiotactic polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers or other olefinic fibers, nylon, polyvinyl chloride or polyester, and wherein said sheath fibers are comprised of one or more of polypropylene, polyethylene, copolymers of polybutylene and propylene, ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber and ethylene-propylene diene monomer.